



THE VIEW FROM YU

MAR  
2022



## From the President

Dear Friends:

As we continue the spring semester and the Hebrew month of Adar—considered the month of increased joy and happiness—we have much to celebrate, as you can read in this issue of the **View from YU**.

One exciting piece of news is the generous and transformative gift received from the Belz family that will spearhead a comprehensive renovation of Furst Hall. This cornerstone academic building on the Wilf Campus in Washington Heights will be renamed the Belz Building. The gift represents a major step forward in our University's recently launched campaign—Rise Up: The Campaign for 613— that will fund scholarships, facilities and faculty to help move Yeshiva University into its next great era.

As we anticipate the change in weather and the budding of the trees, we can look back and look forward with pride at the strides we have made, and continue to make, upholding our four strategic pillars: **Values and Leadership**, **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**, **Science and Technology** and **Great Jobs and Impactful Careers**.

Embodying our pillar of **Values and Leadership**, the new Sacks Book Prize and Leadership Scholars program for undergrads reflect the exemplary character of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. And YU once again took the lead in international bridge building with a Holocaust Remembrance Day event in Dubai, which included Emil Fish and Dr. Shay Pilnik of the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The Fish Center has also begun an important monthly series focusing on the Holocaust today.

You will read about other firsts, like our new shemittah program in Israel and a RIETS-sponsored panel of active-duty Jewish chaplains as well as the educational and humanitarian initiatives in response to the unfolding war in Ukraine, including a student-led mission to aid refugees and a series of multidisciplinary panel discussions moderated by Dr. Ronnie Perelis.

The spirit of **Entrepreneurship and Innovation** is alive and well as the YU Innovation Lab welcomes a new cohort of nine startups. Exemplifying this spirit is the story of two recent grads who founded Fluid Markets, an exciting new startup with the goal of changing the course of personal investing. We are also happy to report on the recent success of our student-run Seforim Sale, which attracted more than 10,000 customers.

On the cutting edge of **Science and Technology**, YU professor Dr. Edward Belbruno co-authored a paper with a NASA scientist offering breakthrough insights on dark matter. On the student level, a YC alum led a seminar on Computational Social Choice for Honors students and computer science majors, hosted by YC's Department of Computer Science.

In its mission to generate **Great Jobs and Impactful Careers**, the Shevet Glaubach Center for Career Strategy and Professional Development hosted a range of workshops and panel discussions focused on networking and resume building, as well as a job fair for education majors and a first-time program for entrepreneurs.

And, lastly, we congratulate our men's basketball team. They had an incredible season, winning their second straight Skyline Conference Championship, earning a No. 1 national ranking during the season and riding a 50-game winning streak.

In this spirit of optimism and renewal, we look forward to a truly joyous time for our YU community.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman  
President, Yeshiva University



(l-r): Jack Belz, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, Ronald Belz (son of Jack Belz)

# RISE UP

## The Campaign for 613

Rise Up: The Campaign for 613 is YU's comprehensive plan to move the University into its next great era by raising \$613 million over the next five years for scholarships, facilities and faculty.

A recent milestone in this effort is the generous gift by the Belz family of Memphis, Tennessee, to renovate Furst Hall, a cornerstone academic building on Wilf Campus in Washington Heights.

In recognition of this transformative gift, and with the full support of the Furst family and the Sol and Hilda Furst Foundation, Furst Hall will be renamed the Belz Building.

In addition, the Belz Collections and Galleries will be built on the first floor of the Belz Building to permanently exhibit the family's extensive collection of Judaica and artwork. [READ MORE](#)



## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### YU Innovation Lab

A new cohort of nine startups is onboard for the spring semester: Trial and Treatment Options, EyeKnow, Clinical Trial Guide, Supplyve, MeNow!, Presence=Present, Find Pic, MMP: Micro Migraine Patch and Allenby Street. On Feb. 21, the YU Innovation Lab and the Shevet Glaubach Center launched the first-ever YU Innovation Challenge, a six-week entrepreneurship initiative that pairs faculty mentors with teams of undergraduate and graduate students to develop startups from ideation to business model. The initiative culminates on April 5 when student teams pitch their ideas to industry experts and potential investors. [READ MORE](#)

### Entrepreneurs Extraordinaire

Using expertise gained at Goldman Sachs and at YU, **Ari Wax '23SB** and **Kenneth Book '22SB** founded Fluid Markets, the world's first stock market to invest in parts of a company but not the whole, with the goal of changing how personal investing and finance work. [READ MORE](#)



Ari Wax '23SB



Kenneth Book '22SB



# Values and Leadership



(l-r): Dr. Shay Pilnik, Yael Grafy, Emil Fish

## Remembering the Holocaust

On Jan. 27, the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum in Dubai brought together **Emil Fish** and **Dr. Shay Pilnik**, director of the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, for an in-person and **livestreamed** event honoring International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On the same day, the New York City Council backed a bill that would have state education officials audit **Holocaust** education. Building on this momentum, the Fish Center is presenting a monthly **series** of presentations on “What is the Holocaust Today?”

## The Bright Side

**Tal Ben-Shahar**, an internationally renowned teacher and author in the fields of happiness and leadership, and **Rabbi Dr.**



**Ari Berman**, President of Yeshiva University, held a conversation on “Mapping the Road to Redemption: Defining the Field of Happiness Studies” to a capacity audience in the Koch Auditorium at Stern College for Women. The Feb. 21 event was

hosted by the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College and presented as part of the annual Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence Program. [READ MORE](#)

## News from Sacks-Herenstein Center

The Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership has created the Sacks Book **Prize**, funded by the Rohr family, and Leadership **Scholars**, a scholarship awarded to 10 outstanding undergrads. The Center has also announced three new appointments: **Dr. Shira Weiss**, assistant director; **Aliza Abrams Konig**, senior director of the Leadership Scholars; and **Rabbi Marc Eichenbaum**, research assistant.



## Experiencing Shemittah in Israel

From Jan. 8–13, YU students visited Israel for a first-of-its-kind shemittah program, learning firsthand about this once-every-seven-years agricultural mitzvah and expressing YU’s commitment to Torat Tzion [redemption]. [READ MORE](#)

## Understanding the War in Ukraine

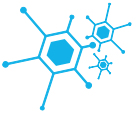
YU has been actively addressing the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, which displays the University’s ability to convene critical expertise in response to international events. YU has convened five panel discussions with YU experts, the Sacks-Herenstein Center has organized a student-led humanitarian effort to aid Ukrainian refugees in Vienna and the Fish Center has presented a collaborative event with Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, JewishGen, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and Museum of Jewish Heritage to examine the deep and fraught history of Judaism in Ukraine as well as hope for the future. [READ MORE](#)



# Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

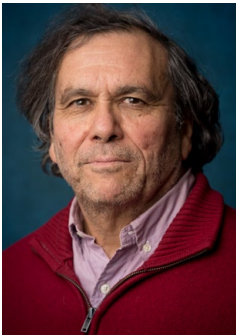
## A Wealth of Career-Building Opportunities

The Shevet Glaubach Center organized information sessions, site visits, workshops and job fairs throughout February and March: a networking event matching would-be marketers to YU alumni (Feb. 16); a résumé/interview skills workshop preparing accounting students to meet with recruiters (Feb. 16); a job fair dedicated to education majors (Feb. 18); a first-time program for budding entrepreneurs to hone their talents (Feb. 23); an evening of networking for Jewish educators (Feb. 28); and a technology event focused on career paths in cybersecurity, data science, product design, and research and development (March 1). On March 31, the month ends with a Virtual Medical/Dental School Fair, an annual event that includes representatives from both local and Israeli schools.



# Science and Technology

## YU Professor Joins Forces with NASA Scientist



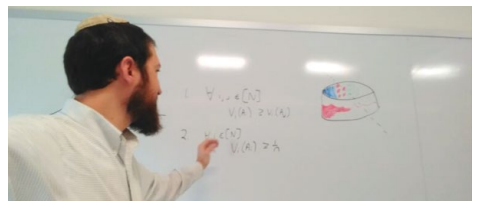
**Dr. Edward Belbruno**, clinical professor of mathematics and recipient of the Humboldt Award, has co-authored a paper with Dr. James Green, former chief scientist at NASA,

that gives breakthrough insights on the deep mystery of dark matter in our galaxy, the Milky Way. Dark matter is the material that makes up most of the matter in the universe but itself has not yet been directly measured. [READ MORE](#)

## Having Their Cake and Eating It, Too

**Aaron Koolyk '11YC** used the “cake-cutting problem” to teach Honors students and computer science majors how to mathematically model the concept of “fair division” during a seminar on computational social choice hosted by The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program and YC’s Department of Computer Science.

[READ MORE](#)



Aaron Koolyk '11YC discussing fair division to YC Honors students



## A Call to Service: Jewish Chaplains in the U.S. Military

Three Jewish chaplains, two on active duty, participated in “Raising the Camp of the Warriors” on Feb. 2. Organized by RIETS and the Office of Student Life, the event shed light on the unique challenges they face in serving the spiritual needs of Jewish soldiers. Panelists included **Shmuel L. Felzenberg**, Colonel, U.S. Army, V Corps Chaplain (pictured left); **Rabbi Ira Kronenberg**, Colonel-Retired, Chairman of the Rabbinical Council of America Committee on Military Chaplaincy; and **Menachem M. Stern**, Captain, Arlington National Cemetery.



### The Return of the Seforim Sale

After a one-year pandemic hiatus, the Seforim Sale, YU's Jewish book sale and a cherished YU tradition, returned to Belfer Hall's Weissberg Commons. From Sunday, Feb. 6, to Sunday, Feb. 27, more than 10,000 masked and vaccinated customers eagerly browsed through the book-packed aisles and stalls of the student-run event. [READ MORE](#)



### YUNMUN XXXII

The Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (YUNMUN) came together in person for its 32nd annual conference on March 13–15, 2022, after having been held as a virtual affair in 2021. Three hundred high school students, representing 35 high schools, joined up with 70 YU students to experience and learn about the complex landscape of international diplomacy.



### Stomp Out the Stigma

An empowering message of unity and empathy was at the heart of the annual Stomp Out the Stigma event held on March 1 at the Lamport Auditorium on Wilf Campus. Organized by Active Minds and the YU Counseling Center and dedicated to destigmatizing mental illness, the program is regarded as one of the most inspiring and powerful events on campus. This year, more than 400 attendees gathered to hear the courageous stories of three YU undergrads who have overcome mental health challenges to change their lives for the better.

### YUPAC Welcomes U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney



On Friday, Feb. 26, Yeshiva University Political Action Club hosted a Shabbaton for over 100 student advocates on the Beren Campus, with panel discussions, training sessions and guest speakers. U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), whose congressional district includes the Beren Campus, delivered the keynote address. [READ MORE](#)

## The YU Israelite Samaritans Project

On Sunday, March 27, at the YU Museum, **Dr. Steven Fine**, Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History and director of the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, will present a special public viewing of *The Samaritans: A Biblical People, ha-Shomronim: Edah. Torah. Har.*, a documentary film that is the culmination of a six-year project with renowned Israeli filmmaker Moshe Alafi to represent this ancient and dynamic culture. Dr. Fine and Alafi will discuss their odyssey with **Dr. Erica Brown**, director of the Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership. [READ MORE](#)



**Dr. Radhashree Maitra**, associate professor of biology, received a Research Enhancement Award from the National Institutes of Health for “Autophagy mediated immune stimulation by reovirus in KRAS mutated colorectal cancer” to support her work from January 2022 through 2024.



**Dr. Emil Prodan**, professor of physics, was awarded a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will cover the costs of collaborative research on “Topological Dynamics of Hyperbolic and Fractal Lattices.”

[READ MORE](#)



In a recent *Forbes* profile, **Aaron Wright** '05C, Cardozo professor and cofounder of Tribute Labs, discussed how his company created Flamingo, a DAO (decentralized autonomous organization) that turned a \$10 million investment into a \$1 billion NFT (non-fungible token) collection.

## Hoop Dreams Made Real

Congratulations to our men's basketball team. They had an incredible season, winning a Skyline Conference Championship, earning a No. 1 national ranking on the D3hoops.com Men's Basketball Top 25 National Poll, and riding a 50-game winning streak, the second-longest such streak in Division III men's basketball history.

Senior **Ryan Turell** was selected Skyline Player of the Year for the second time in his career, and the nation's leading scorer is a favorite to be named National Player of the Year. Graduate student **Gabriel Leifer**'s strong season propelled him to a spot on the All-Skyline First Team for the third time in his career. He finishes his career at YU fifth all-time in scoring, first in rebounding and first in assists. Junior **Matan Zucker** was named Most Outstanding Player of the Skyline Conference Championship.

The Maccabees will return to the court in November 2022.





# Upcoming Events

Visit [yu.edu/events/all](https://yu.edu/events/all) for more information on YU programming.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Events may be subject to change as we continue to monitor CDC guidelines, city and state regulations and recommended best practices, based on the current public health situation.

### Purim Chagiga

Wednesday, March 16  
Wilf Campus  
Beren Campus

### Politics of Money: Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Sites in Poland

w/Dr. Beata Schulman  
Sunday, March 20  
4 – 5:30 p.m.

### Care Café Celebrates: Social Work Month/ World Social Work Day

Monday, March 23  
5 – 8 p.m.

Koch Auditorium  
Beren Campus

### Red Sarachek Basketball

Tournament 2022  
Thursday, March 24 –  
Monday, March 28

### Samaritan Documentary The Samaritans: A Biblical People

Sunday, March 27  
2 – 6 p.m.  
YU Museum  
15 West 16th St.

### Elegy for Odessa

Monday, March 28  
8 p.m.

### Virtual Medical/ Dental School Fair

Thursday, March 31  
6 – 9 p.m.

### Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values & Leadership Launch

Sunday, April 3  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Lampport Auditorium

### Oldtimers Game By Lee Blessing

Yeshiva College  
Dramatics Society  
April 4, 6, 7 & 10  
7:30 – 11 p.m.  
Schottenstein Theater

### Trauma & Repair: Psychologists & Social Workers Reflect on Ukraine Crisis

Monday, April 4  
8 p.m.

### Spring Open House for Women

Tuesday, April 5  
7:15 p.m.  
YU Museum  
15 West 16th St.

### Spring Open House for Men

Wednesday, April 6  
7:15 p.m.  
YU Museum  
15 West 16th St.

### Hackathon

Saturday, April 9 –  
Sunday, April 10  
Gottesman Library  
Heights Lounge  
Wilf Campus

### Careers in Data Analytics

Monday, April 11  
7 – 9 p.m.

## IN MEMORIAM



We mourn the passing of **Dorothy Schachne z"l**. A cherished YU supporter, benefactor and YU honorary degree recipient, Dorothy Schachne was a generous philanthropist deeply committed to improving lives. She, along with her late husband, David (who also received a YU honorary degree), endowed the David I. and Dorothy Schachne Dean and established the Dorothy and David I. Schachne Scholarship Program. Their support helped dramatically expand Wurzweiler's academic programs, community-facing initiatives and student body. Her compassionate involvement has touched countless lives, and she will be deeply missed. [READ MORE](#)



YU is saddened by the death of **Dr. Marcel I. Perlman z"l**, a lifelong YU educator and clinical psychologist. Dr. Perlman began his studies at YU in 1952, where he earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees. He became a full-time faculty member in 1958 and spent the next 65 years teaching, while maintaining a full-time private practice. He retired from the University in 2017 but continued to see his patients until just before his death. [READ MORE](#)



We mourn the loss of **Rabbanit Dr. Naomi Goldstein Cohen z"l**. Dr. Cohen was the last surviving grandchild of YU benefactors Harry and Jane Fischel z"l and the last surviving child of Rabbi Herbert S. and Rebecca F. Goldstein z"l. Rabbi Herbert Goldstein was a longtime professor of homiletics and practical rabbinics at RIETS. Dr. Cohen married future Jerusalem Deputy Mayor, who later became Haifa Chief Rabbi, Shear Yashuv Cohen. She founded a chapter of what was to become known as Emunah and became a cofounder of the Israeli Women's Lobby and of Kolech ("Your Women's Voice"). [READ MORE](#)